

ASTHRAEUS LAPORTE AND GORY, 1837 (INSECTA, COLEOPTERA):
PROPOSED EMENDATION TO *ASTRAEUS*. Z.N.(S.) 1628

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The aim of this application is to stabilize a name in the Buprestidae in accordance with generally established usage. The particulars are as follows;

2. Laporte and Gory established the generic name *Asthraeus* (gender, masculine) with one species originally included, *Asthraeus flavopictus* (1837, *Monogr. Bupr.* 1 : 1, pl. 1, fig. 1).

3. The original spelling of the generic name was used by all authors until 1869 when Gemminger and de Harold (1869, *Cat. Coleopt.* 5 : 1380) used *Astraeus*. This was clearly a correction of an incorrect transliteration from the Greek word Ἀστράειος, a Greek star God, spelt always with a τ and correctly transliterated into Latin with a t. It does not belong to the class of words spelt in Greek with a θ and optionally transliterated into Latin with a th or a t. The spelling of Gemminger and de Harold has been followed by all subsequent authors. The relevant biography is listed below: Laporte and Gory (1837, *Monogr. Bupr.* 1 : 1, pl. 1, fig. 1); Imhoff (1856, *Einf. Stud. Koll.* 2 : 46); Lacordaire (1857, *Gen. Coleopt.* 4 : 43); Saunders (1868, *Trans. ent. Soc. Lond.* 1868 : 10, pl. 1, fig. 12); Gemminger and de Harold (1869, *Cat. Coleopt.* 5 : 1380); Saunders (1871, *Cat. Bupr.* : 43); Masters (1871, *Cat. Coleopt. Austral.* : 124); Macleay (1872, *Trans. ent. Soc. N.S.W.* 2 : 239, 240); Kerremans (1885, *Ann. Soc. ent. Belg.* 29 : 136); Van de Poll (1886, *Notes Leyden Mus.* 8 : 176, 177); Masters (1886, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* 11 : 71); Van de Poll (1889, *Tjschr. v. Ent.* 32 : 79–110, pls. 2–3, figs. 1–19); Blackburn (1889, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* (2) 4 : 1256–1259); Blackburn (1891, *Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust.* 15 : 211, 212); Van de Poll (1892, *Tijdschr. v. Ent.* 36 : 67, 68); Kerremans (1892, *Mem. Soc. ent. Belg.* 1 : 101); Kerremans (1900, *Ann. Soc. ent. Belg.* 44 : 295); Kerremans (1903, *Gen. Insect. Col. Serricornia*, Fam. Bupr. : 148); Favel (1904, *Rev. d'Ent.* 23 : 116); Carter (1925, *Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W.* (2) 50 : 229, fig. 1); Obenberger (1928, *Arch. Naturgesch.* 92 : 204, 205); Carter (1929, *Aust. Zool.* 5 : 270, 282, pl. 33, fig. 43); Obenberger (1930, *Cat. Coleopt.* 12, Bupr. 2 : 365–367); Obenberger (1936, *Festschr. 60 Geburtst. Embrik Strand, Riga* 1 : 133).

4. I know of no author who has used *Asthraeus* in its original form since 1869. That *Astraeus* is not a new name but an emendation is shown by Gemminger and de Harold who cited Laporte and Gory as its authors. This has also been followed by all subsequent authors.

5. Accordingly, to preserve current usage, I request the Commission to validate the emendation of *Asthraeus* Laporte and Gory, 1837, to *Astraeus* Laporte and Gory, 1837.

6. The alternative to this is to let the provisions of the Code take their normal course. This would lead to instability, since *Asthraeus* is either a *nomen oblitum* or it has retained its validity through continued use in the invalid

form *Astraeus*. Different authors will take different views of this and there will be no uniformity.

7. In accordance with the above, the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is asked:

- (1) to use its plenary powers to validate the emendation to *Astraeus* of the generic name *Asthraeus* Laporte and Gory, 1837;
- (2) to place the generic name *Astraeus* Laporte and Gory, 1837 (gender: masculine), type-species, by monotypy, *Astraeus flavopictus* Laporte and Gory, 1837, on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology;
- (3) to place the specific name *flavopictus* Laporte and Gory, 1837, as published in the binomen *Asthraeus flavopictus* (type-species of *Astraeus* Laporte and Gory, 1837) on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.